

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council,

May 6, 2010

Upon the Recommendation of Mayor Higgins and Councilors Adams, Carney,
LaBarge, Narkewicz, Schwartz, and Spector

**A Joint Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Northampton, Massachusetts Calling
Upon Our Elected Representatives in Congress to End the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
and Bring Our Troops and Tax Dollars Home**

WHEREAS, the financial resources available for use by governments at the local, county, state and federal levels in the United States are limited; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Congress has appropriated over \$1.07 trillion dollars for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, most of it borrowed against our national debt; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Priorities Project, the taxpayers of Northampton, Massachusetts are to date collectively paying or becoming indebted for over \$114 million in total cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001; and

WHEREAS, U.S. troops, including those from Northampton and other cities and towns across Massachusetts, have served valiantly in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, over 4,400 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq, over 1,140 U.S. troops have been killed in Afghanistan, and over 39,000 U.S. troops have been wounded in both conflicts according to the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of civilians have been killed in these conflicts and the ongoing warfare poses great and unnecessary harm to the people of the nations of Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, the education services, medical care, housing, other essential public services, infrastructure repairs, and family and private sector financing in Northampton and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have been substantially reduced in order for an excessive portion of available financial resources to be diverted from the constructive economy to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts support public discussion and dialogue about the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend and support Congressman Richard Neal for joining nine of our state's ten U.S. Representatives in voting against a \$37 billion supplemental appropriation for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq on July 27, 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on U.S. Senator Scott Brown and U.S. Senator John Kerry to join Congressman Neal in opposing further funding of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and urge them to take leadership in the Congress to bring our troops safely home and redirect our federal tax dollars to the pressing educational, employment, health, housing, nutritional, infrastructure, energy, and environmental needs of our city, state, and country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call on Congressman Neal and Senators Brown and Kerry to support federal funding for the over 2 million new Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans – particularly the thousands who have come home disable or otherwise physically or mentally wounded – to ensure that they receive the health care, housing, jobs, education and other support services they deserve on behalf of our grateful nation. This support should also be extended to the military spouses and families of our veterans and, for those brave men and women who have not come home, their survivors.

In City Council, September 16, 2010
Passed First Reading on a Roll Call Vote of 6 Yes, 2 No, 1 Abstention
(Councilors Plassmann and Tacy voting No, Councilor Murphy abstaining)

Attest: Mary L. Medina Clerk of Council

In City Council, October 7, 2010
Passed Second Reading on a Roll Call Vote of 6 Yes, 2 No, 1 Abstention
(Councilors Plassmann and Tacy voting No, Councilor Murphy abstaining)

Attest: Mary L. Medina Clerk of Council

Approved: Mary Clare Higgins, Mayor
Rules suspended, passed two readings and enrolled.
I hereby certify that the above Resolution passed the Northampton City Council
On October 7, 2010.

Her Honor Mayor Mary Clare Higgins approved the Resolution on October 7, 2010.

Attest: Mary L. Medina Clerk of Council